

Report by the Government Statist for the information of the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

SOLELY FOR INTERNAL PROSPECTS AS AT END OF NOVEMBER.

**WHEAT** - A general view of the records of the Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors shows that during the six years, 1914-15 to 1920-21, the Drink Bill of the State nearly doubled, this being due to the substantial increases in prices, while during that period the quantity consumed per inhabitant and the convictions for drunkenness per 1,000 of population, fell considerably. From 1920-21 to 1923-24, the value consumed remained practically the same.

For the year ended June 30th 1924, the alcoholic drink bill of the State was estimated to be not less than £2,582,974 equal to 24/18/5 per inhabitant, compared with £2,541,279 or 24/19/- per inhabitant for the previous year and £1,289,119 or £2/17/7 per inhabitant in 1914-15.

The quantities consumed per inhabitant for the year 1923-24 were Beer 9.88 (10.59) gallons, Spirits .39 (.34) proof gallons, compared with the year 1914-15 - Beer 12.10 gallons, Spirits .48 proof gallons. The last 4 years indicate a continuous increase in the quantity of Spirits consumed which has been counterbalanced by a continuous decrease in the quantity of beer consumed. This appears to be also the experience of the Commonwealth as a whole. The consumption of wine has been estimated each year at .75 gallons per inhabitant.

**CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS.** During the last year (1923) there were 4,496 (3,764) convictions for drunkenness averaging 8.73 (7.44) convictions per 1,000 inhabitants. This is considerably higher than the previous year and has only been exceeded in the years immediately preceding the war. - The year 1914 recorded 5,243 convictions averaging 11.77 per 1,000 inhabitants. These convictions include several against the same person. Distinct Persons convicted for the two periods numbered:- 1914- 4,073, average 9.14: 1923- 3,808, average 7.36.

Summarised the following are the details. -

Year	Drink Bill		Galls. consumed per inhabitant		Year	Drunkenness	
	Total	Per Inhabitant	Beer	Spirits		Convict-ions	Per 1,000 Inhabts.
1914-15	£1,289,119	£ 2-17- 7	12.10	.48	1914	5,243	11.77
1919-20	2,164,597	4- 9-11	13.58	.36	1919	3,171	6.77
1920-21	2,453,088	4-19-11	12.29	.30	1920	3,448	7.08
1921-22	2,481,039	4-18- 9	10.97	.31	1921	3,443	6.92
1922-23	2,541,279	4-19- 0	10.59	.34	1922	3,764	7.44
1923-24	2,582,974	4-18- 5	9.88	.39	1923	4,496	8.73

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Statistical Office, December, 1924.

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6th November, 1924.